

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN, GERMANY

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, KU, UK

SUBJECT: KUWAIT NAVAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. HEAD OF UK KUWAIT LIAISON TEAM (MILITARY ADVISORS TO GOK)
RECENTLY TOLD EMBOFF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HMG AND GOK RE
NAVAL EQUIPMENT SALES CONTINUING BUT HE FORESAW FUTURE PROBLEM
REGARDING COMMAND OF SHIPS. BRITISH MILITARY SECONDED TO KUWAIT
ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAD NO RPT NO COMMAND RESPONSIBILITIES, BUT
POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT AT ONE POINT GOK MIGHT REQUEST BRITISH
NAVAL OFFICERS TO COMMAND KUWAITI SHIPS. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD
BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR HMG TO DO.

2. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDE HAVING THIRD COUNTRY MILITARY PERSONNEL
COMMAND SHIPS. EGYPTIAN OR PAKISTANI NAVAL OFFICERS PERHAPS COULD
DO JOB, ALTHOUGH KLT CHIEF DOUBTED KUWAITIS WOULD WANT THEM TO BE
IN COMMAND ROLE. OTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE FOR RETIRED NAVAL
OFFICERS, PERHAPS FROM UK TO BE HIRED DIRECTLY BY GOK TO
COMMAND SHIPS UNTIL KUWAITIS COULD TAKE OVER.

3. COMMENT: NAVAL PROGRAM APPARENTLY MOVING SLOWLY FORWARD
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AND UK APPEARS BE IN DOMINANT POSITION RE SALES NAVAL EQUIPMENT

ALTHOUGH BOEING REP TOLD US MINDEF EXPRESSED INTEREST IN
HYDROFOIL PATROL BOATS (NATO PHM). NEVERTHELESS, SOME THORNY
PROBLEMS BEGINNING EMERGE SINCE NAVY NOT EVEN IN EXISTENCE
YET WHEREAS ARMY AND AIR FORCE, ALTHOUGH SMALL, DO HAVE MINIMUM
CADRE KUWAITI OFFICERS TO FILL COMMAND POSITIONS.
STOLTZFUS

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